(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not sent any recommendation to the Government on the subject.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Cyber crime

287. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts that are being made to reduce the cyber crime in this country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to upgrade and educate the personnel to combat this menace; and

(c) the action that has been taken to have a liaison with the counterparts in other countries to combat cyber crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several steps to check cyber crimes in the country. Major steps are:

- A legal framework has been put in place to handle cyber crime through IT Act, 2000. Cyber crimes are adequately covered under this Act and the legislative provisions in this Act are being further strengthened to include some of the crimes which were not covered earlier.

- The Office of Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA) has been set up for implementing the provisions of the IT Act, 2000 which provides legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communications.

- Information Security is an important area to reduce cyber crime and Department of Information Technology (DIT) has initiated Information Security Education and Awareness programme (ISEA) for development of Human Resource under which awareness and training programmes as well as Diploma/Certificate courses are offered through 5 Resource Centres and 34 Participating Institutions (IITs, Engineering Colleges, etc).

- DIT is also promoting R&D in information security to help in enhancing expertise in surveillance of cyber space and cyber forensics.

- The Government has conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber laws and cyber crimes for Law Enforcement Agencies and Judicial Officers.

- Central Bureau of Investigation and other Police Organisations have set up cyber crime cells and also conduct awareness and training programmes.

- All the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories *i.e.* CFSLs (located at Chandigarh, Kolkata and Hyderabad) and GEQDs (located at Shimla, Kolkata and Hyderabad) have computer forensic facility for forensic analysis of the cyber crime exhibits and also conduct regular training programmes for law enforcement agencies in the field of search and seizure of the digital evidence, its handling and the incidence response.

- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been set up to promote cyber security and help organisations recover from computer security incidents. CERT-Is has issued a number of Advisories, and circulated security guidelines for securing websites to all Government organisations and published it on CERT-In website (http://www/cert-in.org. in). CERT-In also conducts regular security workshops for the system and network administrators of the critical information sector organisations.

(c) CERT-In regularly interacts with the other CERTs located worldwide to handle security incidents.

Cyber crime cases are covered under Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs), which we have with various countries. Moreover, India is a member of Cyber Crime Technology Information Network System (CTINS), which is a Japanese Government initiative for mutual exchange of information regarding cyber crimes among the member countries which is advisory in nature. This system is presently installed in the Cyber Crime Investigation Branch (EOU-IX) of CBI. Cyber Crime Investigation Cell;

CBI is also 24-7 point of contact for Sub Group Hi-tech Crime of G-8 countries.

SIM cards distribution in Madhya Pradesh

†288. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received from consumers so far for mobile phone facility in Shamgarh-Suasara-Garoth townships of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the process of SIM distribution to consumers has begun; if not, by when it would begin;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to lack of transparency in above SIM-distribution, scope for corruption has increased; and

(d) if not, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The waiting list for Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based cellular mobile connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Madhya Pradesh is maintained Secondary Switching Area (SSA)-wise. The total number of applications received from the applicants of Mandsaur SSA as on 13.07.2006 was 11726 which includes Suasara-Garoth townships.

(b) The process of SIM distribution to applicants has started with effect from 3.6.2006.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In view of the overwhelming demand for GSM based cellular mobile connections and the need for ensuring transparency in their provisioning, BSNL is maintaining waiting list for these connections. Details of the GSM based cellular mobile connections of BSNL as on 30.6.2006 are given in the enclosed Statement.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.